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Department finds a new home

The communications department will move to the now empty McGrath



Newsire photo by Hannah Schulz

Above, students with a Digital Innovation, Film and Television major film a project. The major is a part of the communications department, and will soon be housed in the former McGrath Health and Wellness Center.

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

After years of searching for space on campus, the communications department will be moving into the McGrath building in either Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

Xavier has just begun its planning process to transform the building formerly known as the McGrath Health and Wellness Center into a new space for the communications department.

The communications department consists of about 350 students, according to the chairwoman of the communication department, Wendy Maxian.

There are five majors and seven minors that fall under the communication department's umbrella, including advertising, communication studies, Digital Innovation, Film and Television (DIFT), digital media and public rela-

tions.

"The DIFT program in particular has been searching for space for a number of years," Bob Sheeran, Vice President for Facilities, said.

DIFT is currently located in a space in Brockman Hall. The communications department faculty offices are located in Schott Hall, and the Communications Lab is located in McDonald Library. By renovating the space in McGrath, the department can be condensed into one building.

"All of the communications department will have academic space with faculty in the same building. Faculty are also hopeful the new space will enhance the sense of community between faculty and students," Maxian said.

Students are hopeful the new centralized location for the department will be beneficial for students with regards to classes and studying.

"Communications classes

are in random places across campus, and having a more central location will be very convenient," sophomore communications major Miles Adams said.

Senior public relations major Anna Gayford agreed with the sentiment, but added that she wants to see more space for students.

"Being a senior, I'm excited to see what they do with McGrath, to see what opportunities it provides, maybe study spaces for communication majors like other buildings offer," Gayford said.

In mid-January, the planning for the official layout of the building began. While a final design has not been decided on, Sheeran indicated that the hope is that DIFT will operate out of the former warehouse space in the back of the building, which provides the program with needed height.

Further, it's likely that the communications staff will use

the offices which already exist in McGrath, and the lab will be put in the remaining space.

"We know what we want to do with this available space and what we need it to accommodate, but it's too early for me to say exactly where things will be located in the building, because we just started the design process," Sheeran said.

Once the planning stage of the building is complete, construction can begin.

"The earliest that the communication department would move in is the beginning of this fall semester, while the absolute latest would be next spring semester," Sheeran said.

Sheeran noted that this project to transform McGrath into the communications building would not have been possible without the building of the Health United Building, which allowed Health and Counseling Services to move out of the space.

Renovating McGrath is not only an important project to the university because it helps open up a space for the communications department, but also because this opens up

more space in Schott Hall as the university expects to need more office space for core faculty.

"Faculty are enthusiastic about the move and the possibility for a space that encourages more collaboration and creativity," Maxian said.

Senior Monica Rozzi is hopeful that the move to a smaller, more accessible space will be beneficial for students hoping to meet with professors.

"It would be nice to walk into McGrath and be able to have someone greet you at the entrance, instead of getting lost in Schott," Rozzi said.

The move to McGrath is something that appears to be receiving almost entirely positive reviews, according to some faculty.

"We are pleased that the university is continuing to support the success and growth of the program with the new space," DIFT program director Blis DeVault said. "Everyone is excited for the advanced student learning outcomes that a larger and more up-to-date studio area will provide."



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

The communications department will be moving to a centralized location in the building formerly known as McGrath Health and Wellness Center.

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The Iowa caucus was the cause of complete chaos when results were delayed a day.



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First-year Aleya Justison weighs some of the implications of Plan B's default dosage.



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Men's basketball brings home two Big East wins, and things are starting to look up.



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Byte, a brand new short video app, looks to chomp down on Vine's success.



A time for reflection and bonding

CFJ and Student Success host first ever Fresh-Start retreat for first-years



Photo courtesy of Spencer Liechty
The Fresh-Start participants and upperclass leaders spent the previous weekend bonding and reflecting on their time at Xavier and their future.

By Will Pembroke
Staff Writer

The Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) and Student Success co-sponsored the Fresh-Start retreat this past weekend, which is an opportunity for first year students to reflect and recharge themselves as they begin their second semester at Xavier.

In essence, Fresh-Start is the same program as Get-Away, CFJ's retreat for first-year students offered in the fall semester. According to the program's organizer, Spencer Liechty, the idea for another first-year-oriented retreat in the winter was due to the

impact of GetAway on past classes. Fresh-Start offered an alternative chance for first-year students to build community if they were unable to attend GetAway.

"The main purpose of Fresh-Start was to provide space for first-year students to build community, meet people, and make new friends in a fun, relaxing, off-campus environment," Liechty said.

While neither GetAway or Fresh-Start are faith-based retreats, students still have a chance to reflect on that which is meaningful and their experience at Xavier so far.

"This experience was im-

portant for students because it gave them a chance to take a break from their busy schedules and take a moment to pause and look back on their first semester," Liechty said.

Accompanying the handful of first-year students on this 24-hour break were a group of upperclass students who served as mentors and leaders on the retreat.

Liechty explained that the first-year students had the chance to spend time with upperclass students to realize they are not alone in the highs and lows faced each day. Upperclass students also shared stories of their time at Xavier to inspire first-year students and make them feel a stronger connection to campus.

One of these leaders was sophomore Gabby Sparro, who felt empowered by the sense of community on the retreat.

"It wasn't just a retreat for the first-years, it was a retreat for all of us," Sparro said. "I got close to the leaders as well as some of the first-years."

In retrospect, Liechty believed the inaugural Fresh-Start was a general success.

"The reaction to the weekend away was very positive,"

Liechty said. "The environment felt relaxed and (it was) a nice break from campus."

Another reason for the success of the retreat was the students' time away from campus to play games at the retreat center and spend quality time with one another around a bonfire on Friday night.

"Everyone needs a chance

to take a step back and take a deep breath to gather their thoughts and just have a good time," Sparro said.




For leaders and first-years alike, Fresh-Start was an opportunity to do just that.

Information about future CFJ retreats can be found on OrgSync or in the CFJ's office on the third floor of GSC.



Photo courtesy of Spencer Liechty
Similar to GetAway, Fresh-Start serves as an opportunity to enjoy friendship with other first-year students to kick off the second semester.

A snapshot of February: A month for love and leap years

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			5 Study Abroad Fair GSC Atrium 12:00 p.m.	6	7 Women's Basketball vs. Villanova Cintas, 5:00 p.m.	8 Men's Basketball vs. Providence Cintas, 8:00 p.m.
9 BSA: Potluck Soul Food Sunday Arrupe 6:00 p.m.	10 BSA: You Good? Smith G27 5:00 p.m.	11 Queeries, CDI 7 p.m., War Room: Protect Your Energy, Clock Tower, 8 a.m.	12 SAC: Death by Chocolate GSC 6:30 p.m.	13 BSA: Love Yourz GSC and Fenwick 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	14 Senior Thesis Art Show, Cohen Art Gallery, 5:00 p.m.	15 Xavier Music: SEEN GSC Theatre 7:30 p.m.
16 Group Fitness: Yoga HUB 7:00 p.m.	17 E/RS: Convos. Across the American Divide Kennedy, 7:00 p.m.	18 CDI: Day of R.E.A.D Conaton Board Room, 1:00 p.m., Career Fair Cintas, 2:00 p.m.	19 Xavier Music: Wind Ensemble Concert, GSC Theatre, 7:30 p.m.	20 SAC and CDI: A Lecture with Chris Singleton Kennedy, 7:00 p.m.	21 Women's Basketball vs. Providence Cintas, 11:30 a.m.	22 Men's Basketball vs. Villanova Cintas, 2:30 p.m.
23 Women's Basketball vs. Creighton Cintas, 2:00 p.m.	24 Exercise Science Club: Chiropractic Care Guest Speaker, 7:30 p.m.	25 Queeries, CDI 7 p.m.	26 Climate Change Action Workshop Alter 310 11:00 a.m.	27 Active Shooter Awareness Training Schott Hall 10 a.m.	28 SAC: Muskies After Dark GSC, 9:00 p.m.	29

XUFM radio station goes live

The newly approved XUFM will premiere its first live program this week

By Mo Juenger
Staff Writer

After three years of preparation and planning, XUFM, Xavier's online radio station will go live this week, featuring student voices from several colleges and Xavier organizations.

XUFM was built off the roots of WVXU, the original Xavier radio station which was purchased by Cincinnati Public Radio in 2005. Last Monday, XUFM was one of three organizations that were approved by the Senate to be a full-status club.

The station plans to be a talk-based broadcast that showcases news and commentary on a diverse range of topics. This includes student opinions on campus, national and international events.

XUFM Vice President and station manager Johnathon

O'Halloran believes that the presence of a radio station on campus will give students an opportunity to share their thoughts with a wide audience.

"I think that it can be really impactful," O'Halloran said. "Radio and broadcasting in general is a really important way to be able to reach people both on campus and off campus in the Greater Cincinnati area, really anywhere in the world who want to hear what students have to say."

O'Halloran also stated the platform's value as an oral communication tool for all students.

"It lets people practice speaking presentationally. It's a good skill that people can be able to have."

As such, XUFM was created as a subset of the communications department but will

remain a student-run organization.

Working in collaboration with Student Affairs and legal permissions, O'Halloran noted that specific steps have been taken to ensure the success of this week's broadcast and the planning of future segments.

XUFM's first live programming is expected to be released this week, and the station is expected to be running 24/7 programming within the next two weeks. The 24/7 programming will include both live broadcasts and reruns.

"Right now we're working with all the different colleges on campus — Williams College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences and the nursing college — to be able to have them to have a weekly spot," O'Halloran said.

O'Halloran further stated that the organization is working on programming from students involved with Xavier Veterans.

XUFM Treasurer and Social Media Manager Karly Morgan stated that she hopes to eventually include faculty voices in the station's programming, specifically the deans of all four colleges.

"We're hoping that faculty give us content that they want us to produce or that they produce themselves. We want to help those people get on air," Morgan said.

For now, the station will remain primarily talk-based due



Photo courtesy of OrgSync
Members of XUFM, Xavier's new online radio station, have worked over several semesters to prepare for the release of their first live program.



Photo courtesy of OrgSync
Last week, XUFM was one of three organizations that were approved by the Student Government Association to be a full-status club at Xavier.

to difficulty obtaining licensing rights for music, but one of the organization's goals is include a mixture of both in the future.

Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Grant Baker, who attended a Mario Kart Tournament last Friday hosted by an XUFM announcer, noted that the station is already creating tighter bonds within the Xavier student community.

"I got to experience a different side of campus that I don't normally get to see," Baker said of the event.

"It's a great way for Xavier

students to engage with each other and build a community," Morgan agreed.

Students will be able to listen to XUFM programming on its app, Mixlr. The streaming service also offers students the option to receive a notification any time that XUFM is featuring live programming.

Additionally, social media accounts will be available to students within the week.

Students who would like to become involved with XUFM can attend their weekly meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at varying locations.

Barber welcomes XU students

By Andrew Zerman
Staff Writer

The One Way Barbershop, a new tenant of the University Station Plaza, is a privately owned business located on West Lexington Street that offers haircuts, facial shaves and facemasks for adults and

kids.

Along with Gold Star Chili, Graeters, Starbucks and the All for One shop, the One Way Barbershop particularly attempts to reach Xavier students.

The shop's owner, Nazim Destani, explained that a lo-

cation right next to a college campus offers a unique opportunity.

"Having a shop near a college campus is an easy way to build clientele," Destani said. He also adds that many college students may not have a mode of transportation, which makes the One Way Barbershop a more feasible option for on-campus residents.

Destani recently moved from Scottsdale, Ariz. where he was certified after a year of barber school and passing multiple exams. At only 22 years old, Destani has a sense of pride and joy in his decision to move to Ohio and start his own business.

"I enjoy being the leader, which is why I wanted to have my own place," Destani said.

In the future, Destani hopes to expand the One Way Barbershop into a franchise in the Cincinnati area.

The One Way Barbershop is currently open every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is accepting clients by appointment or walk in.



Photo courtesy of Instagram
The One Way Barbershop opened its doors last fall and offers a convenient location for XU students to get a haircut, shave or facemask.

February 3 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF CLARISSA DIXON

- Senator Kate Roach requested \$4,000 to place menstrual care products in bathrooms on campus for the next three years. Following this proposition, the Senate will vote on the motion at the subsequent meeting.
- Two motions were passed to fill the vacancies in the student government. The newest senator replacing Matthew Nguyen is sophomore Olivia Bigham. The unfilled positions on the SORF board were filled by four senators who volunteered.
- Dr. Janice Walker, the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, addressed the Senate to describe the work the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and explain the institution's new five-year plan.
- As a part of the Academic Affairs Committee, first-time Senator Ryan Machesky expressed interest in investigating issues with the Day One textbook program, Canvas usage and course registration.

Impeachment looms over the SOTU

Senate votes 51-49 to not subpoena additional witnesses, final vote today

By JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

President Donald Trump did not speak about his ongoing impeachment trial during his State of the Union address last night. Earlier on Tuesday, he told television network anchors that he planned to save his thoughts for a separate speech.

The Senate decided in a 51-49 vote to not to pass a motion to subpoena additional witnesses in the impeachment trial of the president. The two GOP defections came from Senators Mitt Romney (R-Utah) and Susan Collins (R-Maine).

Romney had his invitation to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) revoked after he voted in favor of hearing from additional witnesses. Romney has not yet released a statement regarding his vote or the decision to uninvite him from CPAC.

Collins became the first Republican senator to formally break with the president on Monday.

“I believe hearing from certain witnesses would give each side the opportunity to more fully and fairly make their case, resolve any ambiguities and provide additional clarity,” Collins said in a statement. “Therefore, I will vote in support of the motion to allow witnesses and documents



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

The Senate decided to not pass a motion to subpoena additional witnesses in President Donald Trump’s Impeachment trial. Trump spoke in front of a joint session of Congress last night before the acquittal vote today.

to be subpoenaed.” Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Ala) were considered swing votes early on in the trial, but decided to vote with the majority of their party in voting no on the resolution. Alexander stated that he believes that voters should decide whether or not he should be removed from office.

Democratic Party leaders expressed their disappointment with the result of the vote and the impeachment

process as a whole.

“It is a sad day for America to see Senator McConnell humiliate the Chief Justice of the United States into presiding over a vote which rejected our nation’s judicial norms, precedents and institutions that uphold the Constitution and the rule of law,” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said in a tweet.

Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer called the motion a cover-up after the Department of Justice released

24 emails between the Trump Administration and Ukrainian officials.

“Every single Republican senator voted to endorse the White House cover-up of these potentially important truth-revealing emails,” Schumer said. “Republicans will have to answer for why they were so determined to enable the president to hide it.”

“Given the current climate, it’s not shocking that most Republicans are staying on party

lines,” sophomore Philosophy, Politics, and the Public major Danielle Boling said.

On Monday, both the prosecution and defense presented their closing arguments.

“History will not be kind to Donald Trump,” House Impeachment Manager and Intelligence Committee chair Adam Schiff in his closing argument said.

“I urge you on behalf of those Americans, of every American, on behalf of all of your constituents, to reject these articles of impeachment,” White House Counsel Pat Cillone said. “It’s the right thing for our country. The president has done nothing wrong. These types of impeachment must end.”

Senators had the opportunity to speak to the floor of the Senate for 10 minutes each on Monday and Tuesday.

Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) used his time to read out loud his question that Chief Justice John Roberts declined to read during trial.

The question, which was displayed on a placard behind the senator, contained the name of the alleged whistleblower who started the initial impeachment inquiry in September.

The Senate will vote today on whether or not to acquit President Trump or remove him from office.

Week in review - no police notes edition

Too much mail, religious Breaking Bad, billionaire bops, hippo predictions, herpes monkeys and grass

- An Oxford professor of experimental psychology has invented a “meat patch” intended to help vegans cure their cravings for bacon. The professor explained that the patch may help individuals imagine that they’re eating bacon, in order to fulfill their pork deficiencies (Jan 27).
- A Tennessee man in court on a marijuana possession charge stirred the pot by lighting a joint during his court hearing. He was removed from the courtroom, but witnesses said it was dope (Jan. 28).
- A Virginia postal worker

will plead guilty to delay of mail after being caught hiding undelivered mail in a storage unit. The worker claimed he simply became overwhelmed by the volume of mail he was ordered to deliver each day, and that he felt “pressured” to deliver it (Jan. 29).

- An Indonesian Islamic cleric was busted for selling meth to his religious students. He told police that he believed meth was halal, and would help students to become more enthusiastic about reading the Quran (Jan. 31).

- Tesla and SpaceX CEO

Elon Musk released an EDM single entitled, “Don’t Doubt Ur Vibe.” Soundcloud comments were mixed, adding “This honestly sounds like the loading screen music on Roblox,” “Couldn’t Grimes help him with this?” and “I listen it, I deserve a cybertruck now” (Jan. 31).

- “Herpes monkeys,” an invasive species of rhesus macaques often carrying the Herpes B virus, are regaining a presence in Florida. To avoid the potentially fatal infection, humans are urged not to feed, kiss or share drinks with the monkeys (Feb. 1).
- A Minnesota woman was reunited with her missing dog after seeing his picture printed on a beer can, thanks to a Milwaukee brewery that prints pictures of adoptable dogs on their cans (Feb. 2).
- The Cincinnati Zoo’s Fiona the Hippo vomited on the Kansas City



Photo courtesy of Twitter

Vegans might be able to find a way to temper their meat cravings.

option while making her annual Super Bowl prediction. Zoo staff are now interpreting the vomit as an accurate prediction (Feb. 3).

- An Alabama man who allegedly fed his pet squirrel meth in order to make it an “attack squirrel” appeared in court on Monday. The man pleaded somewhat not guilty and said that while he owns both meth and a squirrel, he did not share meth with the squirrel (Feb. 3).
- An Ohio man became concerned when a postal worker in Twinsburg

told him that his mail wouldn’t fit through the front door of the post office. The mail turned out to be 55,000 duplicate billing statements from his student loan company. The company apologized, but the man believes that there was an error made on the statement (Feb. 4).

- A group of pranksters who decided they were fed up with pot holes decided to call attention to them with green turf. According to the Arizona Daily star, 10 potholes have now been filled with fake grass (Feb. 4)



Photo courtesy of Twitter

Fiona the Hippo “accurately” predicted the winner of the big game.

Democrat Iowa caucus causes chaos

Results delayed until Tuesday evening; early tally has Sanders and Buttigieg leading

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

The results of the Iowa caucus are muddled, but it appears that Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vt) and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg are neck-and-neck for first place.

The Iowa caucus is the first primary election in the United States, and each party votes on which candidate will represent them in the presidential election in November.

The caucus began Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. Central Time, with results expected around 10-11 p.m.

The lack of known results has left a substantial impact on the candidates, many of whom were hosting watch parties in hopes of winning the caucus and taking the momentum into the New Hampshire primary.

The Iowa Democratic Party believes there was a failure in the app designed for each of the 1,681 precincts to report their results, and a glitch made the results unable to be reported. The backup phone lines into the Iowa Democrat headquarters then became overwhelmed.

"I think this whole situation shows that we have to be extremely careful relying so heavily on technology for something as sensitive as our elections," junior political science major and College



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

The results for the first stop in the 2020 campaign, the Democratic Iowa caucus, was delayed on Monday night after the Iowa Democratic Party found issues reporting result. The caucus is the first primary in the country.

Democrats president Peter Korchack said. The whole country has been waiting a long time for the Iowa caucus, and since they were under so much pressure to get the results out fast, something was bound to go wrong."

Several Democratic presidential candidates made claims as to how well they performed in the caucus, despite the results not being released at the time.

Buttigieg was the first to claim victory in Iowa on Tuesday morning. "By all indications, we are going on to New Hampshire victorious," Buttigieg said in a speech.

"With the numbers we've seen internally and publicly, we're running even or ahead of Vice President Biden," Justin Buoen, campaign manager of Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn), said.

"When those results are announced, I have a good feeling we're going to be doing very, very well here in Iowa," Sanders said in a preemptive victory speech.

One precinct reporter, Shawn Sebastian, was on live TV after being on hold for an hour when he was about to report the results to the Iowa Democratic Party and was hung up on.

"Really, I feel like if the results are a day late, it's truly not that big of a deal," first-year Politics, Philosophy and the Public major Isaiah Johnson said. "Now, if a week passed and we still didn't know the result, that's a clear sign of some shenanigans going on."

The Iowa caucus changed formats this year, making two large changes. Beginning this year, there will be just one round of realignment at the caucus, where any candidate that receives less than 15% of the initial votes is considered a non-viable candidate. Voters are then able to either

change their vote to a different candidate or leave the caucus. Any person who voted for a viable candidate will no longer be able to realign. For each round, a paper trail will be kept of who selected which candidate.

The second change is the 87 satellite locations approved for the Iowa caucus across the globe, if people could not attend their precinct in person.

After criticism of the system which caused the delay in the results, Iowa's Republican senators Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley released a joint statement defending the format.

"Iowa's unique role encourages a grassroots nominating process that empowers everyday Americans, not Washington insiders or powerful billionaires." The statement read. "The face-to-face retail politics nature of Iowa's caucus system also encourages dialogue between candidates and voters...The process is not suffering because of a short delay in knowing the final results."

The next round primaries will be held in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The New Hampshire primary is a secret-ballot process where a voter selects their preferred candidate on a paper ballot as opposed to a caucus, where voters meet in public spaces to discuss their preferred candidate.

UK takes first formal step in leaving the EU

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

The United Kingdom has ceased to be a member of the European Union (EU) as of Jan. 31.

While the agreement was unanimously ratified by all 27 EU member states and passed through the UK Parliament, there is still much negotiating and deliberating that will happen.

Trade aside, there are many issues that still need to be negotiated between the UK and EU. These issues include data sharing, coordination of law enforcement, aviation standards and safety, access to fishing waters, supply of electricity and gas and the licensing and regulation of medicines.

"At this point, I don't care about Brexit. It's gone on so long I am tired of the subject," first-year nursing major Sophia Daun said.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has insisted that the 11-month period is "ample" time to do a "fantastic" trade deal.

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said in a press release, "It's now time to get down to work. Time is short. We will negotiate in a fair and transparent manner, but we will

defend EU interests, and the interests of our citizens, right until the end."

Paul Bernal, a law professor at the University of East Anglia and an opponent of Brexit, tweeted, "Let the Brexiters have their bong. Let them have their festival. Let them have their coin. Let them have their blue passports (even if the old ones were really black). If that matters to them, let them enjoy them. But fight like hell to protect our rights and mitigate the harm."

The future of the relationship between the UK and EU is uncertain, but will become clearer during the transition period that will end on Dec. 31 of this year. Before then, the UK will abide by EU laws.

"I think the British economy is screwed. I also hope that the Irish get a fair shake when all is said and done," first-year Philosophy, Politics, and the Public major Ciara Lambert said.

President of France Emmanuel Macron called Brexit a "historic warning sign" for Europe that much reform needs to come.

Macron also claimed Britain's departure from the EU was a sad shock, but not one that will dent ties between the nations.




Photo courtesy of AFP

The United Kingdom's flag is removed from the European Council building in Brussels, Belgium. The UK formally left the European Union on Jan. 31, almost four years after the controversial referendum approved it.

Living with the Mamba Mentality

“Kobe!” Sorry, I just shot a crumpled up piece of paper into a garbage can and completely missed.

Kobe Bean Bryant was born on Aug. 23, 1978 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The future NBA superstar moved around quite a bit as a kid, spending most of his childhood in Italy. As you may or may not have



Will Pembroke is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from Glen Ellyn, Ill.

seen during his 20-year NBA career, Kobe could speak a number of European languages, namely Italian.

When he returned from Italy in 1991 to attend Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania, Bryant led the basketball team to four straight state championship appearances.

Kobe was so good at basketball he didn't need to play in college, skipping it to go straight to the NBA draft in 1996. From there he went on to win five NBA titles, be nominated for a record 15 All-NBA teams, 12 All-Defensive teams and appear in the NBA All-Star game 18 times.

With all of that said, I don't want to sit here and tell you just about Kobe's impact on the basketball court.

Most of us are aware of how good he was during his

time in the NBA, and if you weren't, go ahead and re-read the stats I just listed off. Kobe meant so much more to the world than just being an NBA superstar.

Kobe's clear number one passion in life was raising his four daughters alongside his wife, Vanessa. The self-proclaimed “girl dad” took pride in parenthood.

Often asked if he wished he could have a son to be the heir to his throne in the NBA, Kobe would respond that he doesn't need a son — he has his daughter, Gianna.

Kobe's passion for child

rearing should be an inspiration to everyone. Whether you have children now or want to have some at some point, Kobe is a great role model for how a parent ought to be.

Playing under her father as the coach, Gianna could be seen lighting up the travel basketball

circuit. The 13-year-old was the star baller in the family. She frequently attended Los Angeles Laker games with her dad, with the same look in her eye Kobe had when he watched others play. There seemed to be something different about her, much like her father.

The “Mamba Mentality” will forever be linked to Kobe as his catchphrase for the attention to detail he so often paid not only to basketball, but to life in general.

It is something all of us should seek to achieve in our daily lives. Whether you are having a tough time doing your homework, dealing with relationship problems or struggling to get out of bed each day, remember the Mamba Mentality. Kobe would want you to take that 90% effort you are giving and push it to 150%. He would want you to zero in on what you want and fight until you achieve it.

Let's remember the victims of the fatal helicopter crash on Jan. 26 by keeping Kobe, Gianna and the other victims in our minds and hearts and truly live with the Mamba Mentality.

Whether you are having a tough time doing your homework, dealing with relationship problems or struggling to get out of bed each day, remember the Mamba Mentality.

Shut up about the straws and save the turtles

Plastic straws aren't the problem. They're a problem. As in one of many. As in banning straws doesn't save the ocean. Or literally anything for that matter. At least not alone.

The idea of banning plastic straws first arose in late 2018. Who started it is unclear, although some websites credit a young British kid. Shortly after, companies from Starbucks to Disney began declaring they would phase out plastic straws.

Tik Tok users began bragging about their fancy metal straws. Suddenly there were hashtags and movements and T-shirts and people actually seemed to care about the environment, which is genuinely great, except that aside from the short term benefits of awareness and conversation, banning plastic straws (or bags for that matter) isn't nearly enough.

Honestly, it's not even a great start. Allow me to explain.

Plastic pollution is a serious issue. The oceans current-

ly contain approximately 150 million metric tons of plastics, with an additional 8 million tons added each year. These plastics, while harmful on their own, degrade into microplastics, which are far more dangerous. How dangerous, you may ask? No one's exactly sure yet, and that's the scary part.

Microplastics, which are plastic particles smaller than five millimeters in length, are so small that they pass through our existing water filtration systems, meaning that you ingest them with tap water, just as you ingest them with bottled water, filtered water and in much of your food. Some studies even claim that we inhale them in the air we breathe.

While this is a fairly new field of study, preliminary research suggests that in animals, these microplastics can infiltrate both the brain and the placenta. Microplastics are only one of the ways plastic pollution can affect humans, and I haven't even mentioned the multitude of ways plastic pollution harms marine life.

But let's get back to the straws: They do not matter nearly as much as you think. James Leape, director of Stan-

ford's Center for Ocean Solutions, estimates that straws are responsible for less than one percent of our plastic problem.

In some parts of the ocean, including the famous Great Pacific Garbage Patch, marine plastics are the dominant pollutant, fishing gear being the highest contributor.

On a global scale, 80% of plastic pollution comes from land sources, with packaging material being the biggest culprit.

So, what can you do? Honestly, not much. Attempts to limit your consumption of single use plastics help. This can be accomplished by bringing reusable bags to the grocery store or opting for glass in-

stead of plastic when possible. You can also partake in beach and ocean cleanup efforts or attempt to spread the word.

Outside of that, there's honestly not much you can do because individual action won't fix this problem.

We need systemic change that goes beyond cities banning the use of straws and plastic bags. Biodegradable plastics are possible but are still a fledgling industry, and existing biodegradable plastics are greatly flawed as many breakdown into microplastics.

But we can fix this. We invented plastics. These are our creation and I have no doubt that a civilization that sequenced its own genome and split an atom can develop safer alternatives to plastic.

We just need to focus on creating a new solution instead

of fixating on just straws. We need to be calling politicians and demanding research into microplastics and plastic alternatives. We need action that is productive, action that is working towards the creation of a solution rather than limiting the effects of something that is already killing us.

So yeah, shut up about the straws and start speaking greater. Start aiming higher. Keep that same energy, just re-focus it. Then we can actually #savetheturtles.

These plastics are our own creation and I have no doubt that a civilization that sequenced its own genome and split an atom can develop safer alternatives to plastic.

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*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.



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There’s no such thing as a GOAT

If you claim that one athlete is the singular Greatest Of All Time (GOAT) of a sport, you should stop because you’re making yourself sound dumb.

There are thousands of individuals who have played professional sports, and for you to make that distinction about one of them highlights your own ignorance. In fact, the entire dubbing of an individual as “The Greatest Of All Time” is simply irrelevant. Allow me to explain why.

Let’s do a thought exercise, shall we? (If you aren’t the least bit familiar with the NBA, I apologize, you’re going to get lost here, but don’t stop reading, this’ll be fun, I promise).

Now, take a moment and select who the greatest basketball player of all time is: I’ll wait.

Who’d you pick? Michael Jordan? LeBron James? Kobe Bryant? While I’m not saying you’re wrong, what I am say-

ing is that that is an impossible claim to make because it is just as impossible to back up.

Yes, Jordan had six rings, but if greatness is just championship titles wouldn’t eleven-time NBA champion Bill Russell be the greatest basketball player of all time? LeBron James recently passed Kobe Bryant on the all-time scoring list, but Karl Malone is still above both of them. Does that make him the GOAT?

To put it simply, no, it does not, because you cannot compare players from different eras, especially with all the evolution that transpires in today’s sports world.

With the NFL celebrating 100 years this season, this topic has become more and more prevalent with the creation of the all-time 100-year team. Each position got between 5-12 selections for the greatest players to ever play the position in the past century.

Controversy arose when

household names such as the likes of Drew Brees, Calvin Johnson, Troy Polamalu, etc. were left unacknowledged of this spectacular honor.

These athletes who spend their entire careers trying to excel in their respective positions are constantly compared and held to standards of other famous athletes. It’s even gotten so gross that superstar athletes are getting their identity stripped away from them in comparison to sports legends. Patrick Mahomes, who just won this year’s Super Bowl (and Super Bowl MVP), is changing the landscape of the NFL at will, but what was the first thing Stephen A. Smith and Max Kellerman said on *First Take* the following Monday afternoon? “Is Patrick Mahomes the Michael Jordan of football?”

It’s an embarrassing slap in the face to the effort, dedication and sheer talent displayed by these professionals to do nothing but compare them to

the idols they grew up aspiring to be like and legends that came before them. The remedy for this is quite simple, really.

Stop putting players in boxes. There doesn’t always have to be one player who is significantly greater than their contemporaries. In fact, the criteria for which one could even decide that are rather fickle and confusing. So, here’s what you should do instead: tier them.

Tier lists allow for multiple players of a similar caliber, resume and style of play to exist cohesively on the same plan without disrespect. Most tier lists operate on a 5-point scale from ‘S-Tier,’ the best, to ‘D-Tier,’ the lowest classification.

It is much easier and makes a lot more sense to acknowledge Jordan, Kobe and LeBron as S-Tier players in regard to their careers, rather than to definitively say that one is better than the other.

Claiming that one athlete is the greatest is like saying that a singular color is the best color, or a flavor, or a show and so on and so forth. Your statement is based on opinion and therefore lacks any real statistical value.

When it comes to ranking the ability of players, stop dubbing athletes as GOATs and allow them to play and excel in their own way.



Sayo Jolayemi is a first-year business analytics major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from Columbia, Md.

Weighing the implications of Plan B

An everyday woman is at risk of her emergency contraception failing just because she meets the average weight standard in America.

One afternoon, I decided to watch the show *Shrill*, starring *Saturday Night Live* cast member Aidy Bryant, which follows the life of young journalist Annie and her experience as a fat woman.

I knew the show would give me a glimpse of the discrimination fat people encounter. However, the pilot episode of *Shrill* struck me beyond what I



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would have ever thought: The emergency contraception, Plan B, has a lower effectiveness rate on people with uteruses who exceed a Body Mass Index (BMI) of about 25.

Here’s my biggest issue: The average adult assigned-female-at-birth woman has a BMI of 26.5. This means that the average person is at risk of their emergency contraception failing.

I know what you’re probably thinking: You can’t trust what you see in a TV show. So, I did what any sensible person would do, and I searched it on the internet. Several articles popped up from various women’s magazines describing the same dilemma from this show. I got a lot of articles that pretty much told me to check with my doctor if I had any questions.

If this were an isolated issue to those whose BMIs were in the extremely high ends of the spectrum, I would be a little more understanding. Obviously, those on the high ends of the BMI deserve proper healthcare, but some medi-

cines need dosages adjusted based on weight.

For those who are unaware, Plan B and similar progestin-only emergency contraceptives have a 72-hour countdown after unprotected sex for effectiveness. These contraceptives stop the egg from ever being released at all. Thus, the goal is to prevent pregnancy, making the time frame to take the pill a narrow gap.

So, with percentages of effectiveness dropping at every hour, how is it reasonable to ask women to get a doctor’s appointment? The point of over-the-counter medicines is that you shouldn’t have to ask your doctor to take it, right?

Plan B’s website stands by its 89% success rate, no matter a person’s weight, with back up from the FDA. The FDA refuses to enforce relabeling because it could not reach a “definitive conclusion” while examining research.

Princeton did a study, however, that might raise some concerns with results that do not seem to show that “these

data are too conflicting.” In the study, there was insignificant difference in chances of pregnancy in women who exceeded a BMI of 26 if they were to just not take it at all. Further, women with a BMI of 30 were three times more likely to have it fail, and their study showed that women exceeding a BMI of 35 lost effectiveness altogether.

The top internet suggestions told me that concerned women should just take twice the dosage. Personally, I don’t think that I have the training to go against prescribed dosages. Additionally, progestin-only emergency contraception costs around \$40-50 a pill, making a person’s bill almost \$100 to get the same effective treatment of someone who weighs less.

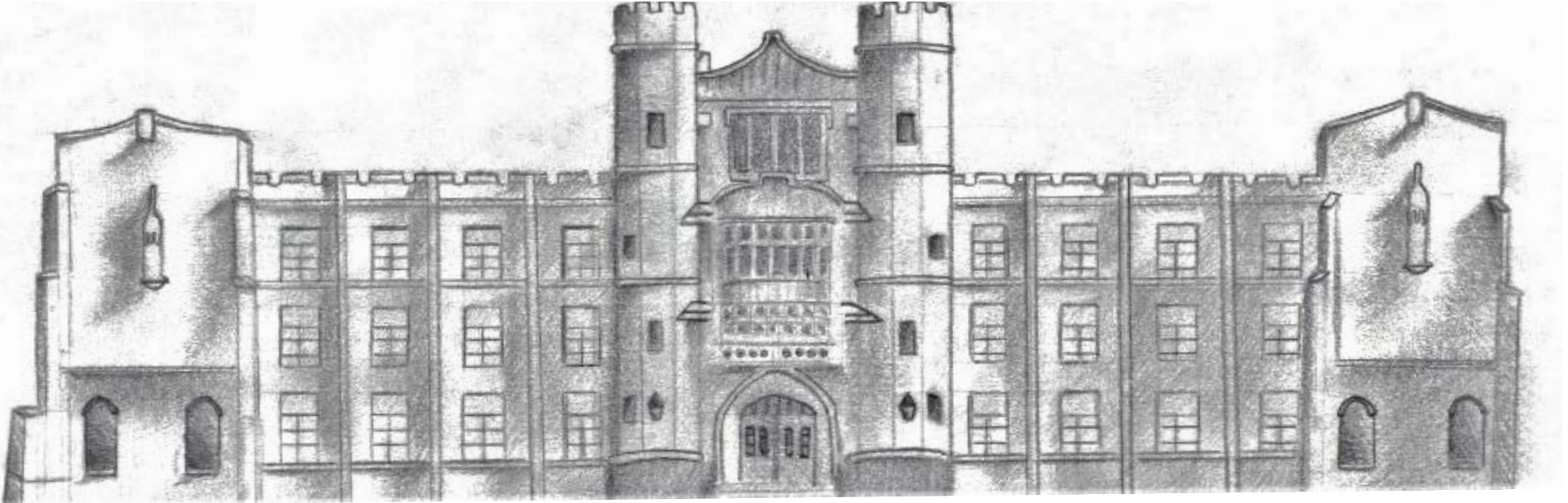
Imagine having a headache and only being able to find child’s ibuprofen. Then, imagine going to the counter and hearing you need to schedule an appointment with a doctor to solve a pounding headache that’s happening right now. Maybe you check online and

some sketchy blog says, “Just take more than is prescribed.”

Further, let’s say you take the advice and pay twice as much as you would have if there was just ibuprofen with a better proportioned dosage to an average adult weight. It would be undeniably frustrating.

I will admit that I’m not sure how much this is a problem across other types of medicine, but the standard American assigned-male-at-birth man has a BMI of around 26.8, meaning that dosages are probably shifted for non-gender specific medicines. Indispensably, I think we must look at gender as a pivotal reason for this disparity of care.

Women’s reproductive health has remained dismissed, ignored or improperly cared for. Bringing light to lifechanging mistakes like these can help give women, especially fat women, more trust and autonomy in their health care. A woman’s weight should not determine her access to secure health care.



Xavier takes big strides on two-game road trip

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Amid a pivotal juncture in conference play, the Musketeers played their best basketball when it was needed most.

Facing then No. 10 ranked Seton Hall on the road last Saturday, Xavier had a tall task ahead of it.

With the opportunity to turn the tides of the season, the Musketeers rose to the occasion against the Pirates, and came away with a convincing 74-62 win to deal Seton Hall its first Big East loss of the season.

Following the big win, the Musketeers saw their lead nearly evaporate against DePaul, but they pulled it out in a 67-59 win last night in Chicago.

A hot start to set the tone

The Musketeers controlled the lead for the large majority of the game and set the tone with a 30-6 start in the first half. The offense looked fluid, while the team defense helped shut down the Pirates' highly-productive offense.

"I think that we're tough," head coach Travis Steele said after the Seton Hall game. "It's next-play mentality here at Xavier. Seton Hall wasn't going to feel bad for us after we lost to Marquette. It's next day, next play. I moved



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

Senior forward Tyrique Jones was named the Big East Player of the Week, averaging 16.0 points, 16.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game.

on real quick. Our guys moved on real quick."

Beast mode Jones

Senior forward Tyrique Jones strung together arguably his best showing of the season thus far. While earning Big East Player of the Week, Jones averaged 16.0 points, 16.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game. Going toe-to-toe with a pair of 7-footers on Seton Hall's roster, Jones displayed his poise and veteranship as a force on the interior.

"I thought Tyrique did a great job of leading our group, especially early on in

the game," Steele said.

He finished in a tie for the team high in points with 19 while also corralling 18 rebounds. The most telling stat of his performance — he only missed one shot the entire game.

Steele has firmly held his belief that Jones can be the best rebounder in the conference, and he showed just why that is on a big stage against the Pirates.

Second chance points and rebounding made the difference

If Jones' sheer domination

wasn't enough, Xavier, as a team, packed a punch on the boards.

The Musketeers outrebounded Seton Hall by a staggering 51-22. They also scored 18 second chance points compared to the Pirates' zero second chance points.

"We've been really focusing on that heavy since we lost to Marquette," Steele said. "We've been tremendous on the glass every single game since then. The bigger lineups helped but just the mentality — getting all those loose 50-50 balls, the long rebounds, rattling them out — I thought we did that (today)."

The extra effort battling for rebounds made all the difference as Xavier controlled the paint while earning points off its own misses.

Marshall's homecoming proves fruitful

Junior forward Naji Marshall grinded out a 19-point outburst while playing in his home state of New Jersey.

The crazy part? He played the whole game with the flu while locking down Preseason Big East Player of the Year Myles Powell to just one 3-point field goal on nine attempts.

"Naji did a great job," Steele said. "They send (Pow-

ell) off a million screens ... he can play in isolation. He's as good as any guard in the entire country, but our team did a great job as well, just making it difficult on him."

Xavier's time is now

The Musketeers had some defensive lapses down the stretch when DePaul cut the lead to as few as six points. However, Xavier hung on for its second straight victory.

There's no time like the present for Xavier as it continues to climb the ladder in the Big East standings.

According to Fox Sports, Xavier is now a perfect 15-0 on the season when leading at the break.

The momentum is beginning to sway Xavier's way, and if it can carry that kind of play for the rest of the season, the Musketeers will surely be a team to be reckoned with late in conference play.

The win goes to show how tough the Big East can really be — even the team in last place almost pulled off a comeback against a Xavier team that was fresh off its best win of the season.

It won't be an easy road ahead for the Musketeers, but their recent play has revealed that this team has a lot of fight left in them.

Shorthanded Xavier falls Musketeers battle hard on the road vs. Butler

BY JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

Xavier women's basketball erased an 11-point halftime deficit last Friday on the road at Butler, but the Musketeers fell short on the road against the Bulldogs in overtime, 63-61.

Down three players with junior forward A'riana Gray, senior guard Ashley Gomez and redshirt sophomore forward Sarah Leyendecker all out due to injury, the shorthanded Musketeers went down 14-2 to start the first quarter.

Xavier then scored seven unanswered points to close the deficit but went into the second quarter down 17-9. The second quarter was much of the same, as Butler outscored Xavier 12-9 to take a 29-18 lead into the break.

Redshirt freshman forward Ayanna Townsend paced the Musketeers in the first half, scoring 8 points on a perfect 4-4 from the field, while also chipping in with four rebounds.

The Musketeers entered the fourth down 40-35. A 3-pointer by sophomore guard Lauren Wasylson (12 points) opened the fourth quarter scoring and put Xavi-



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

Redshirt freshman forward Ayanna Townsend stepped up last Friday against Butler and scored a team-high 14 points with eight rebounds.

er within two points at 40-38. Butler went on a 6-0 run after Wasylson's shot, but Xavier came right back and cut the deficit to one with 2:29 left to play.

Trailing 53-50, freshman guard Morgan Sharps hit a three to tie the game at 53 apiece with 16 seconds left, and that score remained at the end of regulation.

Xavier went up 58-53 to start off overtime, but Butler responded and tied the game at 59 with 52 seconds left in the game.

Xavier went ahead by one point with 38 seconds left, but Butler answered to go up 62-61 on its next possession.

After getting a stop, the Bulldogs hit a free throw on their next possession to go up 63-61, which was the final result.

The Musketeers finished overtime with only four players after Townsend, Wasylson and junior guard Aaliyah Dunham fouled out.

Townsend finished with a team-high 14 points and eight rebounds and she was joined in double figures by Wasylson, freshman forward Courtney Prenger (11 points) and Sharps (11 points).

The loss dropped Xavier to 1-9 in the Big East. The Musketeers look to get back on track at home on Friday against Villanova.

Musketeers claim five first-place finishes at IUPUI

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

Xavier swimming claimed five first-place finishes in a dual meet against IUPUI last weekend, but neither the men's or the women's sides were able to return home with a win.

The women's team finished with a score of 99 to IUPUI's 175. Freshman Brooke Atkins (100 IM, 1:00.70), junior Lorelei Gaertner (50 fly, 26.02) and senior Abigail Garner (500 free, 5:18.63) all secured first-place finishes.

The 400 free relay team comprised of freshman Clare Bosse, junior Maureen Cummins and seniors Emily Conners and Emily Saugstad finished in first place with a time of 3:32.77.

Out of the five total first-place finishes at the meet, four came from the women's team.

On the men's side, Xavier fell to the Jaguars 192.5 to 82.5. Senior Landon Clark swam to a win in the 100 individual relay event with a time of 52.68.

The 400 freestyle relay team of junior Alex Sironen, sophomore Ben Quon, junior Christian Thomas and freshman Andrew Martin finished in second at a time of 3:26.32.

The 400 medley relay team of Sironen, Thomas, senior Brandon Abboud and freshman Jon Bernard, secured a second-place finish, swimming a time of 3:26.32.

Xavier swimming will have some time off from competition before returning to the pool on Feb. 26 when the Big East Championships begin.

The Musketeers have performed exceptionally well at the league-deciding meet in recent years.

Last season, the men's team rallied for a come-from-behind win on the final day of competition to secure a first-place finish. The women's team finished in second place in the conference, and neither side's final scores factored in diving points as Xavier does not field competitors in any of the diving events. That shouldn't pose a concern this year either.

"Now that there were more (divers) it was even more of an obstacle," head coach Brent MacDonald told the *News-wire* last year. "I think we did a great job of not ever focusing on that ... We just didn't let that affect us in any way and decided that when it came to the swimming portion, we were going to do everything we could."

Analysis of Super Bowl LIV and the Chiefs victory

Storylines develop for defending conference champions in the offseason

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Super Bowl LIV didn't disappoint with the Kansas City Chiefs scoring 21 unanswered points to defeat the San Francisco 49ers 31-20.

While the game closed the door on the 2019 season, the offseason offers intriguing storylines for both of the reigning conference champions.

For the majority of the game, the 49ers looked like the better team. San Francisco had the ball with a minute left in the first half and three timeouts.

49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo connected with tight end George Kittle for a long completion that would've put the team in field goal range had it not been for an offensive pass interference call.

The 49ers had a 10-point lead heading into the fourth quarter before the game's Most Valuable Player Patrick Mahomes engineered another postseason comeback.

Chiefs head coach Andy Reid, who is well respected by fans and coaches around the league, won his first Super Bowl in his 20th season as a coach. With the win, Reid has likely solidified his place as a



Photo courtesy of si.com

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes has already established a stellar resume in his first three seasons in the NFL. He has won an NFL MVP Award and was the winning quarterback at Super Bowl LIV as the MVP.

legend in Kansas City, as well as the NFL Hall of Fame.

Kansas City won its first Super Bowl since Super Bowl IV, which was a half a century ago.

Mahomes is entering his fourth year in the NFL as the 2020 season rolls around. Although he is only 24 years old, he has already won an NFL MVP Award as well as a Super Bowl MVP. After the win, Mahomes affirmed his love

for the team and city, stating, "I want to be in Kansas City a long time."

His contract expires a year from now, and the Chiefs will have to open up their checkbooks if they want to be sure he stays. Since he is a young player with a great pedigree, NFL analyst Adam Schefter believes he could draw a contract worth in excess of \$40 million a year and over \$200 million total.

While many think this could be the beginning of a Chiefs dynasty, the large contract Mahomes will command could keep the Chiefs strapped to a tight budget and leave them with significantly less moves to make to fill gaps in the team.

I see Kansas City as closer to a Green Bay type of team, with a phenomenally talented quarterback, but always large holes either on the defensive

or offensive line. Mahomes will need to assume a Tom Brady-esque pay cut to ensure the team can be build up well around him. Otherwise, it could be extremely hard for the Chiefs to keep all of their offensive stars like Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill.

Furthermore, the Chiefs have a massive 24 impending free agents.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco 49ers have 14 free-agents, and will likely be looking to make moves to get over the edge and win the Super Bowl next season.

The 49ers are ahead of schedule on the full-scale rebuild of the team. Not very many people expected them to be in competition for the championship this year. General Manager John Lynch has shown a knack for bringing in big playmakers, such as Garoppolo, utility man Kyle Juszczyk, and cornerback Richard Sherman.

I fully expect the 49ers to be a top pick for the NFC's slot in the Super Bowl next year. In the AFC, I see several serious challengers to the Chiefs, namely the Baltimore Ravens and 2019 MVP Lamar Jackson or a newly-energized New England Patriots squad, coming off their earliest playoff exit in a decade.

Assessing the state of the Bengals' management

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

Prior to the 2019 season, the Bengals hired a new head coach, Zac Taylor.

By bringing him in, there was a fundamental shift from focusing more on the defensive side of the ball under Marvin Lewis to focusing primarily on the offensive side of the ball.

The first year of that change led to some pretty lackluster results. Aside from the obvious regression in the record of the team, the lack of quality play was apparent.

Line play on both sides of the ball was a major issue, and consistently losing the war in the trenches played a large factor in the Bengals being unable to win games.

Taylor was brought in after a short tenure on the Los Angeles Rams' staff to be the offensive genius who turned the fortunes of the team around. However, the team has yet to put that vision into fruition.

Taylor's approach of taking a look at both quarterbacks on the roster in Andy Dalton and Ryan Finley this season was justified in order to see what the signal-callers were capable of. However, neither of them thrived under Taylor's guidance.

Running back Joe Mixon had a productive season as



Photo courtesy of si.com

With the offseason officially underway following Super Bowl LIV, the Bengals look forward to a 2020 campaign with the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft come April. Most reports see the team taking a quarterback.

the number one option offensively. However, fans were often left frustrated by a lack of creativity in the running game with Taylor's play calling.

While he did not call the plays defensively, it was evident Taylor struggled with creating matchup advantages on that side of the ball with some of his substitution pat-

terns. All in all, this year was a struggle for Taylor as he got his feet wet as an NFL head coach.

From a management perspective, this was also not a good season.

Director of Player Personnel Duke Tobin made some questionable moves last offseason which did not aid the team in improvement.

The most glaring of these decisions was signing linebacker Preston Brown to a three-year extension.

Of course, Brown ended up getting cut midway through the season due to the fact that he was out of shape.

Aside from that, the signings of lineman Bobby Hart and John Miller did little to help the offensive line strug-

gles from the year before. Furthermore, in the draft the Bengals took tight end Drew Sample with their second-round pick.

Sample was considered by many to be a backup blocking tight end who wouldn't be selected until the later rounds, but the Bengals took him anyway.

He ended up as the third stringer this year, doing little to make a positive difference for the team.

Finally, the team did not do nearly enough to address its needs at cornerback. The lone cornerback signee of note from last offseason was B.W. Webb, who was consistently picked on by opposing teams as the weak link in the secondary.

One of the most important offseasons in franchise history awaits for the Bengals as they have the number one pick in the 2020 NFL Draft in April.

There is growing speculation that the Bengals will use their No. 1 pick on reigning Heisman-winning quarterback and Ohio native Joe Burrow.

It is clear that Tobin and Taylor need to brainstorm plans for a successful draft and free agency period to pick up productive talent, which will allow the team to compete far better than they have previously.

Opinion: Chance deserves respect



Photo courtesy of Billboard.com

Although Chance the Rapper has produced several noteworthy albums in the past, his most recent album met lackluster reviews. However, some feel that this stumble should not distract from his past accomplishments.

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER
Staff Writer

I first heard Chance The Rapper in 2016 when he helped Kanye perform “Ultra-light Beam” on *SNL*. To me, his verse was the highlight of the song and one of the best verses on the entirety of *The Life Of Pablo*.

I listened to his music ravenously from that point on. I

devoured any Chance I could get my hands on — copies of *Acid Rap*, *10 Day* and *Surf* with Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment. Hell, I even listened to a Skrillex song because Chance had a verse.

I bought a “Third” hat and skipped practice to see him live. I loved Chancellor Bennett and, for a while, the world

did too. His face graced the cover of *GQ* and *Complex*, and the Grammys changed their format to allow him to win. He declared himself “Kanye’s Best Prodigy” and he was not wrong.

Then *The Big Day* dropped and it all went away. For those unfamiliar, *The Big Day* was Chance’s 2019 release. It was his first official album (his

previous three were technically mixtapes) and his first release in three years. It was also horrible.

Look, I just explained how much I love Chance, but “Good God,” that album was atrocious. I would go as far as to call it the worst release by a major artist in recent memory. I am not alone in that sentiment. After releasing *The Big Day*, Chance was ridiculed.

To be fair, the album was about his marriage to his longtime girlfriend and thus it was very wholesome. Yet social media was awash with jokes. The most famous, and arguably funniest, was the “I love my wife” variety, with the joke being that the album was nothing more than “I love my wife” said in a variety of different ways.

However, that is not why I’m writing this piece. I’m writing this because it’s time to finally stop with the incessant ridicule. Why? Chance the Rapper is more than a rapper.

If you were not aware, Chance does more than just music. He is a fixture among the youth in his hometown of Chicago. Chance’s youth work began around the midpoint of the 2010’s, in which he started hosting “OpenMike” nights.

These OpenMike nights are aimed at high school stu-

dents with the goal of raising interest in music and poetry.

Chance also created Social Works, a nonprofit that focuses on education, mental health, homelessness, performing and the literary arts. Through Social Works, Chance has pledged \$1 million to mental health services in Chicago, and another \$1 million to Chicago Public Schools. In total, Social Works has donated \$4.2 million to 40 public schools in the greater Chicago area.

He has also paid for years of people’s groceries, worked to create a period of 42 hours without a gun related homicide in Chicago, and led fans out of a concert to the ballot box.

In 2018, he bought *The Chicagoist*, a newspaper left to die when its billionaire owner decided to protest unions. Chance has stated his desires for the publication to be an independent place where marginalized people can use their voices.

I would continue with the examples of this man’s incredible generosity, but I don’t want to go over my word count.

Thus, I’ll conclude with this: Chance the Rapper is an amazing and talented musician and an even better human being. It’s time we began to treat him as such. “IGH!”

New app Byte looks to revamp Vine culture

BY HEATHER GAST AND
SAYO JOLAYEMI

Managing Editor and
Staff Writer

Three years since Vine’s death, Vine co-founder Dom Hofmann released Byte, a similar six-second video platform, on January 24. Many are heralding Byte as “the new Vine,” but the app has many hurdles to face before it can reach the success of its predecessor.

Twitter acquired Vine after the app debuted in 2012 and attracted more than 200 million active monthly users by the time the app was killed in early 2017 due to unstable management.

In that four-year span, vines were shared and replayed tens of millions of times across social media platforms and ultimately outlived the Vine app.

First-year Mike Berlingo looks forward to Byte because of Vine’s legacy. “I enjoyed Vine, and I hope that Byte can bring back some of the nostalgia that was associated with Vine,” Berlingo said.

Since Vine was last on the market, however, the social media world has evolved critically, namely through monetization by content creators.

A social media influencer, for example, is a content creator with a large follower base

that signs on to contracts or sponsorships with companies. Influencers on apps such as Instagram or YouTube can make serious cash and support their entire lifestyle through advertising.

While long-form social media sites such as YouTube and Twitch offer methods of payment, this hasn’t existed in short-form media. Content creators are the force that pulls in viewers but don’t see a share of the profit that apps such as Snapchat or TikTok make. Byte wants to change that to better attract and support creators.

Byte’s long term plan, according to *The Verge*, is for the majority of ad revenue to creators through a partner program that is being piloted. Creators that Byte invites into the program will be set up in brackets according to viewership and paid monthly according to their bracket.

A Vine-inspired platform that has survived the last three years and attracted more than 500 million active monthly viewers is TikTok.

TikTok operates with algorithms to provide a never-ending stream of videos tailored to activity on the app. The app encourages binge-watching and was one of the fastest growing social media apps in 2018 and 2019.

Junior Annabel Gremore began using TikTok about a



Photo courtesy of Pcmag.com

Byte, a recently released video sharing app, seeks to revamp and re-capitalize on the success and nostalgia associated with Vine. The social media app will compete with other short-form video platforms such as TikTok.

year ago as a joke but stayed when the app filled the hole Vine left behind. You can find her posting videos dancing with her house mates or showing off her shoots for her Digital Innovation, Film and Television major.

She doesn’t see herself or others using Byte for one chief reason: “I’ve only heard (negative things) about it.”

Gremore sees the new app as a relic rather than a revival. “Vine was so cool because you saw things that you would have never seen and from people’s real lives,” Gre-

more said. “But (Byte) has the same video format style, and it worked in 2012, but technology has changed so much because there is so much to do with editing... And, I mean, a whole minute is a lot longer.”

TikTok’s flexible 60 second content limit content could also be more attractive to corporations than Byte’s six-second setup.

But where Gremore really sees Byte lacking is social relevance. TikTok’s impact on pop culture today is tangible, as seen from Lil Nas X’s record-breaking hit “Old Town

Road.” The single rocketed to the top of the Billboard 100 charts due in part to the song’s popularity on the app. Though they may not know the “Renegade” choreography, anyone watching the Super Bowl saw Charli D’amelio, whose dancing has garnered 22.3 million TikTok followers, featured on a Sabra ad.

While she still feels that Byte will not likely overtake TikTok, Gremore hasn’t counted it out just yet. “The internet’s the wild west,” Gremore said, “so you really can never look too far ahead.”

Heathers gives mixed impressions



Newswire photo by Kate Ferrell

XU Theatre's performance of Heathers: The Musical left viewers feeling conflicted. While the show featured exquisite costumes and choreography, it lacked technical finesse in some areas, which distracted viewers.

BY KATE FERRELL
Staff Writer

Shoulder pads, neon lights and a pep rally-like atmosphere instantly propelled me into the world of *Heathers: The Musical*. This weekend I had the privilege of seeing Xavier Theatre's production of *Heathers*. While there were certainly elements of the show that were top notch, there were others that overshadowed the otherwise remarkable performance.

Some of my favorite parts of this show were the technical elements, as some of them were downright astonishing.

For example, the costumes for this show were some of the best I have seen. The outfits of every cast member sent me into the '80s and completed the atmosphere of the show.

In addition, the choreography of the show was well done. Oftentimes productions of *Heathers* rely heavily on the original choreography from the West End Production. In this performance, each move felt unique, which is not only refreshing but also extremely impressive.

Unfortunately, one technical element of the show that fell short was the design of the auditorium.

Xavier staged their production of *Heathers* in the round (meaning the audience surrounds the stage on all four sides), which is a way that I have never seen it be-

fore. The production even included spaces in the audience where cast members moved throughout the performance.

While this was a fresh approach at times I found it distracting. In certain scenes, cast members blocked my view of the stage. Consequently, the only thing I found myself staring at during certain songs, such as "Big Fun," was the backside of whoever was dancing in front of me.

Another large distraction was the audio imbalance throughout the show. Although the vocals of cast members such as Faith Macko (Martha Dunstock), Amara Shrober (Heather McNamara) and Dylan Van Camp (J.D.) were exceptional when I could hear them, the music overpowered them at the performance I saw.

Even with its drawbacks, this show had a true shining star: Connie Kavensky. Kavensky, who played the protagonist Veronica Sawyer, gave a performance unlike anything I have seen.

As someone who has seen *Heathers* about five times, I can say confidently that she is by far the best woman I have seen portray Veronica. Her energy, vocals and smiling face were addicting to watch and listen to, and left me wanting more even after the show was over.

The only thing I found unbelievable was her romance with J.D. Veronica and J.D.'s love story is one of the most

famous and complex in the world of musical theater. In this portrayal it was hard to buy into the fact that they were so in love with one another that even death couldn't come between them.

One of my personal favorite songs, "Dead Girl Walking," felt so staged that it was hard for me to watch. It was evident that the chemistry between Kavensky's and Van Camp's characters just wasn't there.

Another character I found difficult to connect with was Heather Chandler, played by Gigi Relic. While she embodied the character well, it felt as if the cruelty and sass of the character was shoved in the audience's face.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed Xavier's production of *Heathers*. Although it had its shortcomings, I felt that in the end the cast and production team did a great job of putting on a difficult show that thrilled and excited the audience. The remaining performances are sold out.

While this may not have been my favorite Xavier show, I still commend the work that was put into it and look forward to seeing what else Xavier Theatre has in store this season.

Total score:

Check out these Super Bowl ads: the hits & misses



BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Tvovermind.com

The cost of commercial slots at the Super Bowl hit an all-time high — about \$5.6 million for a 30-second ad. This year, however, the quality of the ads was mostly lacking.

More than 100 million viewers tuned in to this year's Super Bowl. Some viewers tuned in for the football, while others watched simply for the commercials. In November, before many teams have even secured their spot in the NFL playoffs, the advertisement slots for the Super Bowl had already been filled.

Of course, there was a multitude of car brands pushing advertisements for electric cars. There were the typical beer company commercials. Many companies that normally produce high-quality Super Bowl Commercials came up short this year.

Here are some of the most notable Super Bowl commercials, for varying positive and negative reasons:

Hulu:

Tom Brady didn't even play in the Super Bowl this year, but he still found a way to steal the show. After rampant speculation about the meaning of a caption-less image Brady posted on his social media two days before the Super Bowl, it turned out Brady was just teasing this Hulu ad. Brady begins, "All good things must come to an end..." which certainly grabbed the attention of all NFL fans, before he went into his ad for Hulu.

10/10 for the massive suspense

Mountain Dew and Jeep:

The movie nostalgia was real in several Super Bowl ads. Mountain Dew perfectly parodied the infamous axe scene from *The Shining*, down to matching the exact outfits of the characters. The twist? "Here's Mountain Dew Zero!" Jeep did a twist on Bill Murray's *Groundhog Day*, with one notable difference. This time, Murray's character greatly enjoys his never-ending day in a Jeep Gladiator. Did I mention that the Super Bowl was on Groundhog Day?

8/10 for movie nostalgia

Reese's Take 5:

One of the only commercials that drew a laugh out of me this year, Reese's witty commercial takes common phrases like "Where have you been, under a rock?" or "Got your head in the sand?" literally.

8/10 for being so silly it's funny

Tide:

To be honest, I didn't find this Super Bowl ad very funny but I can absolutely appreciate this commercial, as the man who needs to wash his shirt makes cameo appearances in other commercials later during the game. This was a creative ad idea and Planters should take note.

6/10 for a recurring character

Planters:

Planters officially killed off their brand mascot, Mr. Peanut, in an attempt to recreate the hype surrounding the "Baby Yoda" phenomenon. I see your plan, Planters, and I'm not buying it.

3/10 for lack of originality

Microsoft and Amazon:

While both of these commercials were good enough on their own, I have trouble enjoying these "Super Bowl" ads when I have seen them almost 10 times before the game even begins.

2/10 for not saving these ads for the big game



Aries: Classic awkward scenario incoming: At the Caf you're gonna sit within eyeline of someone you kind of know, but not well enough that either of you would go sit next to each other, but well enough that it's kind of weird every time you catch each other's gaze.



Taurus: You want the Iowa caucus results? Well sorry, the stars don't know anything. They know more than the DNC, but everyone does at this point! Pluto wrote that joke and he was very proud of it.



Gemini: Dreams DO come true! Dunkaroos are finally coming back!



Cancer: Friends seeking a shoulder to cry on will be plentiful this week. Make sure to wear a waterproof jacket so that those crybabies don't get snot on your Gucci sweatervest.



Leo: It's easy to fall into a routine. Try not to eat your usual Chartwells food; instead, go to one of the many other places on campus, such as Currito or...



Virgo: Sometimes you have to work within frustrating restrictions. Sometimes you want to make a Vine and all you can do is make a TikTok. Just hold on tight to your dream. Maybe Byte will blow up soon.



Libra: You need to stop letting your persistent nightmares make you live in fear: Flo from the Progressive commercials is not coming after you. Not yet, at least.



Scorpio: The stars wanted to get you caught by Res Life, but they thought that'd be too mean since it would be your fourth write-up. Chill out, my dude.



Sagittarius: Never feel self-conscious about your name. The main actress in the classic Disney show *Dog with a Blog* is named "G." I get that it's a stage name, but it's a silly stage name.



Capricorn: If you're wondering what's up with this crazy weather, it's just a classic brotherly feud between the Heatmiser and Snowmiser. And if you don't get that reference, you don't understand the true meaning of Christmas.



Aquarius: You look like you need a vacation! Though, I believe you're on the no-fly list, so maybe a staycation would be more your speed.



Pisces: Jupiter looked deep into your soul and determined your spirit animal is baby Mr. Peanut.



I've been having issues with a guy on campus. Let's call him Rick. Rick and I went on a few dates a month ago, and then suddenly he stopped texting me. He even broke our Snapchat streak. It doesn't make any sense. I've got an incredible personality and Rick was laughing at all of my jokes. Our dates were so much fun. We saw *Star Wars* together, made cupcakes and I even brought him to my grandma's house. You can't dump a girl after she brings you to her grandmother! What am I supposed to tell Nana?

I've sent him a few snaps of half my face yet he left me on open. I don't know how to make it clear that I'm still interested.

Sincerely,
QUIRKY CUPCAKE GIRL 🍪

Dear Quirky Cupcake Girl,
Maybe... actually, screw this. Listen, Hannah, you're a nice girl. Honestly. But some people just don't vibe. And I'm sure Rick thinks you're really cool, but maybe you just aren't super compatible.

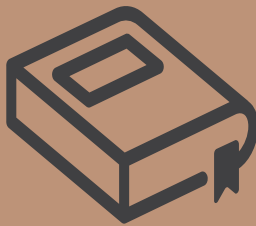
Maybe he was intimidated by the quick introduction to your Nana. Or maybe Rick doesn't think you're as funny as you do. What was he supposed to do, just sit in silence after every dumb story about your roommates? There's such a thing as a courtesy laugh. No one cares about Brenda and how silly she is. Or maybe Rick wanted to walk out of the theater when you clapped after Kylo Ren kissed Rey! Why does that deserve a clap?

I hope I wasn't too harsh, but I think Rick probably realizes you two aren't compatible in the long term and wants to end it before leading you on anymore.

And if I wasn't clear enough, I know 'Rick' is referring to me, and I don't want to date you anymore.

Almanzo, M.D.

Do you have a question for Almanzo? Send it to callahana2@xavier.edu and he might give you the time of day.



Fictionary

Your weekly well of wacky words™

BY TESS BREWER
Staff Writer



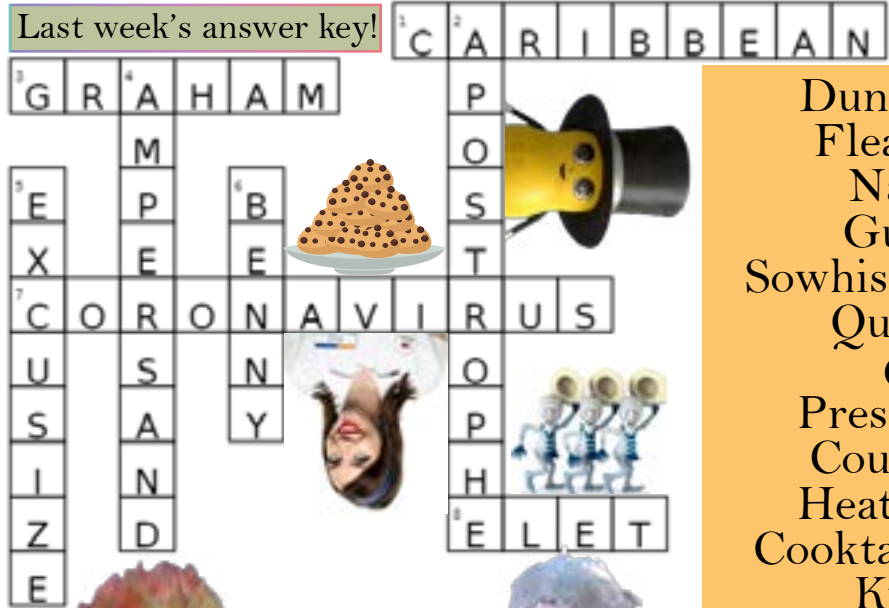
Flea-mail (Fl-ee-mail): A very short response to a long winded and frantic email
"In conclusion, I know this email was long and rambling, but I really need your input on this so please don't respond with one of your classic flea-mails."
"k"

Sowhistletation (So-wis-ul-tay-shun): Romantic attraction based on one's ability to whistle

Pressogen (Pr-eh-ss-oo-gen): Fear of a virus perpetuated by constant news updates

Cooktastrophe (Cook-tas-tro-fee): The charred remains of a batch of (specifically) peanut butter chocolate-chip cookies

Last week's answer key!



- Dunkaroo
- Fleamail
- Nana
- Gucci
- Sowhistletation
- Quirky
- G
- Pressogen
- Courtesy
- Heatmiser
- Cooktastrophe
- Kylo

Check back in next week's issue (2/12/20) for the answer key and a new puzzle!

